

solves by a temporary excitement or prejudice, which, when passed away, must leave you sunk still deeper in the mire of your political sins.

Yes, sir, under Mr. Polk's administration the column of democracy has been completed. Based upon truth, crowned with victory, inscribed with 'equal rights,' 'free trade,' 'cheap lands,' 'constitutional treasury,' 'hard money,' and the 'onward march of liberty,' it will ever stand an imperishable monument of the fame of its architect and the glory of the republic.

But what, sir, have our opponents been doing in the meantime? Without recurring to the past, I will speak only of the present. We know you have voted that Mexico commenced the present war by her aggressions. We know you have voted to place the army and navy of the United States—50,000 volunteers and \$10,000,000—at the disposal of the President, to wage this war on our part. And we know that you have now turned round and voted that this same war was not commenced by Mexico, but unnecessarily and unconstitutionally by President Polk. We also know that southern pro-slavery men and northern anti-slavery men, of the same political party, have united in electing our worthy and distinguished Speaker, who, in moving the exclusion of slavery from Oregon, where it could not exist, introduced and provoked the agitation of the principles of the Wilmot Proviso, for which he should be held responsible or applauded, according to the judgment of the patriotic people.

From the Boston Post.

#### Congressional Dignity.

The ultra whigs are doing all that lies in their power to render their country as ridiculous as they have rendered themselves. Their votes affirming that war existed "by the act of Mexico"—furnishing men and money to the fullest extent for its prosecution—seeking to make one of the heroes of the war their candidate for President, and then declaring that they lied in thus voting, and that the war was unnecessarily and unconstitutionally commenced, places them in that absurd position where their blind party rancor and reckless ambition have so often led them. Their last effort to embarrass the administration, and to browbeat the executive branch of the government into a tame submission to their will, unmindful of consequences to the country, is an impudent attempt at the exercise of dictatorial power, at the hazard of the interests and honor of the nation, and directly insulting to a co-ordinate branch of the government—a branch which is more directly the representative of the people than either of the other branches. These sapient whigs, on the floor of Congress, speak of the executive branch of the government in the most indecorous terms; they hesitate not to accuse the President of falsehood, treachery, and every offence disgraceful to a public officer; they adopt resolutions ordering him to do this and that; and because, in extreme cases, he exercises the discretionary power placed in him by the constitution, and follows the wise course adopted by the immortal Washington under similar circumstances, and refuses to endanger the interests of the country, and to violate its honor merely to cater to the low designs of party hacks, a great hue and cry is raised at his "assumption," and Mr. Schenck thinks it is time for the representatives of the people to assert their rights, and to refuse to acknowledge Mr. Polk as their master. Let us tell Mr. Schenck, and his collaborators, that Mr. Polk is as much the representative of the people as the members of Congress; that he was placed in the presidential chair by the votes of the people of the whole Union; and that the gross and unjustifiable insults offered to the President by members of Congress, are insults offered to the whole people, through their immediate representative in the government. We think it is time to know whether one branch of the government is to be sustained in gross and blackguard abuse of a co-ordinate branch, and in the use of a tone of insolent command over it; or whether the constitution is to be regarded, and each branch protected in the exercise of its legitimate powers. It is the congressional branch that is attempting to coerce, intimidate, nullify, and enslave the executive branch—to destroy the balance of power provided for in our great charter of liberties.

The people cannot be hoodwinked by the violence, arrogance, and falsehood of the whigs upon the floor of Congress, and will watch that branch of the government as jealously as they will watch the other branches.

The dignity of Mr. Schenck and his associates is very sensitive in their intercourse with the President; but we remember when Nicholas Biddle, the president of a creature of Congress, openly defied the action of Congress, and refused to allow a committee sent to Philadelphia to examine the books of the "United States Bank" access to said books! The same class of politicians that now talk about knowing who is to be "master," &c., tamely, ignominiously submitted to the gross contumely of King Nicholas; and John Quincy Adams and Edward Everett, who were members of that committee, bowed to the arrogance of the bank president with all the meekness of lambs. Here was a time when the rights and dignity of Congress were outraged by one of its creatures; yet it allowed "the great financier," whose largesses covered its floor, to pluck its beard and snap his fingers in defiance of its authority, without even asking who was master. But the question was not necessary; it was too evident who was master.

The whig Congressional Committee have appointed the 7th of June for the holding of the whig National Convention, at Independence Hall, Philadelphia.

## JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1848.

### The War—Prospects of Peace.

The position which the two great political parties of the United States occupy upon the question of the Mexican war, is certainly a matter of the gravest consideration. The whigs, who have accidentally acquired a majority in one branch of our national Legislature, have adopted a resolution declaring the war unconstitutional, unnecessary and begun by the President. A resolution was passed containing this declaration, notwithstanding at the commencement of the war, a bill was adopted, placing at the disposal of the President the army and navy of the United States, together with 50,000 volunteers, and the means for their sustenance. This bill also contained a preamble, declaring that "war existed by the act of Mexico," and passed both houses of Congress with only 16 dissenting votes. How the whigs expect to reconcile the people to such palpable acts of inconsistency, is more than we can tell; or how the leaders in this movement against their own country, expect to escape the just condemnation of an indignant people, is yet to be seen.

The doctrines of the larger portion of the whig journals, backed as they have been by the acts of the present Congress, have been the most effectual and direct means of prolonging the war. The sentiments advanced here in opposition to the prosecution of the war, is the cause of an honorable peace not having been submitted to by our enemies ere the present time. A correspondent writing from Mexico, states that after our triumphant army had entered the city of Mexico, among the array of documents, which were found on examining the archives of the government, were the whig speeches which had been delivered in Congress against the war, with those passages interlined, which expressed the strongest feelings against the administration, and the most sympathy for our foes, as having furnished proof to the Mexican orators to show the injustice of our cause. This accounts for the prolongation of the war. The anti-American sentiments expressed in this country in reference to the cause and justness of war, are promulgated among the Mexican people, which creates an impression among them that a majority of the American people are opposed to the war; and that our troops will be withdrawn as soon as the present administration terminates. The continuation of the war, which is attended with such a destruction of life and expense to our government; and which is so fatal to our stubborn enemies, would have been terminated, ere this, had the leaders of the whig party been governed by patriotism. It is impossible to calculate the injury which is done the interests of this country by delaying to vote the necessary supplies promptly, and postponing action on these measures until near the close of the session. The whigs in Congress, however, are responsible for the delay; and the freemen of this republic will hold them amenable for a failure to discharge their duty to their country.

Whatever position the leaders of the whig party may assume in regard to the origin and justness of the war, they cannot mislead the great mass of the people. The events are of so recent occurrence to prove that the war is just, honorable, and actually unavoidable on the part of the United States, that any attempts to mislead an intelligent people to the contrary will prove ineffectual. We trust that there will be patriots enough found in Congress to stand by their country in the midst of a foreign war. The war must be prosecuted until we have secured an adequate indemnity for the wrongs and outrages perpetrated by the Mexican authorities upon this country, in violation of the solemn faith of treaties and the law of nations. Such is the determination of the people of this great confederacy, especially those who hold dear our national honor.

CASS POST OFFICE.—We have been assured that the complaints which we published last fall in regard to the mismanagement of this office were unfounded. From inquiry we learn that the postmaster at Cass, is clear of censure in the matter, and we publish this in order to correct any wrong impressions which may have been created by our statements. We are convinced that the faults complained of lie in another quarter.

WISCONSIN.—The Convention for forming a new Constitution for Wisconsin, have concluded their labors. The new constitution is to be submitted to the people, for their approval or rejection, on the second Monday of March. Its provisions, in many respects, are similar to the one upon which the people of Illinois vote on the first Monday of the same month.

### Hon. J. A. McClernand's Speech.

We conclude the publication of the speech of the Hon. J. A. McClernand, in to-days paper. It is an able speech, and vindicates the policy of the Administration with force and clearness. From what we have been able to learn it fairly represents the feelings and sentiments of a large majority of the democracy of Illinois. This speech shows that the almost unprecedented prosperity of our country at present, is attributable to the results of the workings of the great democratic measures which have been adopted during the present Administration; and triumphantly establishes the wisdom, correctness and expediency of those popular measures.

The President since his elevation to the highest office in the gift of a free people, has stood upon the same ground occupied by the republican fathers of our constitution. Notwithstanding the attempts of the whigs to convince the American people of the unpopularity of his administration, we are confident that his measures will be sustained by the calm judgment of the Nation. The array of facts and arguments advanced by Col. McClernand in support of the Administration show that he is worthy of his exalted station. We trust that this speech will be read with attention by every one who desires information upon the important questions of national policy which should be observed by every republican.

NEW BELL.—A new bell, weighing about fifteen hundred, has just arrived for the Catholic Church, in this place. It was presented to the Rev. Mr. Ingoldby, by Felix Ingoldby, of N.Y. This Church has recently underwent considerable repairs, and is one of the most splendid buildings of the kind in the State.

INQUEST.—Coroner Richardson held an inquest, on Thursday last, over the body of Thomas McCanna, who was found dead in his bed in his residence on the west side of the river. The jury decided that his death was occasioned by disease and exhaustion.

THE weather continues delightful, yesterday and day before, it had more the appearance of Indian Summer than winter. From present appearances we will not have enough of the cold and bluster of winter, to enable us to appreciate the beauties of summer, when it arrives.

WIS.—The Senate of Virginia will not agree to authorize the issue by the banks, of bills of a small denomination, to expel the ones and twos of other States. Very sensible on the part of the Senate.

CHEMISTRY APPLIED TO PHYSIOLOGY, AGRICULTURE &c.—We are indebted to Messrs. Fowler & Wells, of the Phrenological Journal, for a copy of the above work. It contains a large amount of Chemical information, and being furnished at the extreme low price of 20 cents, should have an extensive circulation.

THE Chicago Democrat states that the Liberty Party Convention, held in that city recently, decided to oppose the constitution.

FIRST BOAT IN TOWN.—Mr. Otis Hardy, of this place, is building a boat for the navigation of our canal. He expects to have it completed before the opening of navigation.

THE UNIVERSAL COLUMBIAN SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHER.—This is the title of a weekly journal published by S. B. Brittan, in New York, at \$2 a year. It is devoted to general enquiry, and an exposition and inculcation of the principles of nature in their application to individual and social life. Its contents, no doubt, prove interesting to many.

NORTH WESTERN EDUCATOR.—We have received the February number of this valuable publication. This periodical is well worthy of a liberal patronage. Teachers and others who feel an interest in education, should use their endeavors to ensure for it a liberal support. It is published monthly by J. L. Enos, in Chicago—price \$1 00 per annum.

### Peace Concluded!

Attack upon the American Settlements in California. By Telegraphic despatches from Louisville, dated the 5th, we learn that the ship Edith had arrived at New Orleans, from Vera Cruz, bringing dates to the 20th ult. The Mexican Commissioners had submitted a treaty of peace, based upon the propositions submitted by Mr. Trist at Tacubaya. The document has been forwarded to Washington for the ratification of the Senate.

Five hundred California Rangers recently attacked the American settlements of Lapere and San Jose. They defeated the settlers, drove them from towns, and fired the buildings. Two American vessels had been despatched to assist the settlers against these marauders.

Specie was daily arriving at the capital being part of Gen. Scott's assessed levies. The death of com. Ridgley is announced—his disease was the gout.—St. Louis Recille.

Much is said about the doings on this canal. I am no Engineer; but can see things after they are shown to me as clear as any Engineer. My attention has been drawn on passing along the canal from the Sag to Juliet, to some few things. On the east side, almost the whole way, is a bluff or natural embankment. I always supposed that a natural embankment is better and cheaper than an artificial one, but there appears to be a heap of caution taken to keep clear of the bluff—above and in the vicinity of Lockport, is a great crook made, so as to run clear of the natural embankment; for I can see no other reason; (if some one should tell me perhaps I could see some other reason,) here is a great expense, and for what? In Lockport, and so to the point of the hill at the Poor House, is likewise a good natural embankment; but not used—from the foot of Norman's Island to the dam, about a mile, an embankment is made on the west side of the canal and river, at a great expense—here as most of the distance that I have mentioned, is a real good natural embankment, but an artificial one is made of Rubble stone, which was not made or pretended to be made water tight, and when the water is in the canal, the ground in that vicinity is overflowed to the natural embankment any way—and why all this?—it can't be for tow path, for that is not necessary, because had a bridge been built across the canal at Kerr's Lock the east side could have been used for tow path, and the bridge at the foot of the Island would have been saved or at least the bridge at that lock would not have cost half so much as the one now at the foot of the Island. The Bridge at Juliet, if wanted at all, could have been placed above Brawdy's lock, at less expense than where it now is; as it would have been nearer the stone quarry, and of less length. I have no hesitation in saying that one hundred thousand dollars will not pay the cost of useless and unnecessary wall and embankment from that beautiful store house in Lockport to Brawdy's dam, and so on in proportion to the Sag. If so, is there good Engineering? I think any man in passing along from Juliet to that store house, will exclaim, why on earth so much wall and embankment? there is no necessity to go as far as even the grand crook near Runyon town. Perhaps this is not got up in so good fashion as I could do it, were I an Engineer, but it contains truth, and truth may be told any way, for it always looks good spelt right or wrong. I am a plain unlettered man but can see things on the surface. I am going to get me a gold pen, and then I hope I will be better. If I cant, I will go to that "Teacher's Institute" in your place, a few terms. I some think then of starting a Nutral paper down here.

Yours, in great haste,

TRO. TARBOR.

Morris, Feb. 1st, 1848.

For the Signal.

"Will County Literary and Historical Society." is the title of a Law passed at the last session of the Legislature, and under which Law the society therein named has been recently organized, by the adoption of a Constitution and By laws and the election of Officers.

A good Library of useful reading matter has long been wanted in this place, and the primary object of this society being to procure and place within the reach of the community a good substantial Library of Historical, Scientific and other useful and interesting reading matter at a small expense to its members, the enterprise is well worthy the encouragement and patronage of the public.

The formation of this society presents a very favorable opportunity for every person who desires it, to have at command the means of information, both instructive and amusing, and at the same time of an elevated and substantial character; and such as will, at all times, be conducive to good morals and correct taste.

In its Library will also be found books of reference, containing statistical and other important matter relative to our own, and other Governments and countries; and it will afford most admirable opportunities to its members for passing their leisure hours, with pleasure and profit to themselves and friends, and for storing their minds with useful knowledge, and at the same time, enable them (at a trifling expense) to contribute to the general dissemination of correct knowledge and information, and aid in the elevation of the moral standard of community.

For the small sum of one dollar, a person may become a member, and payment of the further sum of twenty five cents, once in every three months, may continue that membership, and have within reach all the Historical, Scientific and other works of which the society may become owners.

The Society has at this time nearly one hundred volumes of books which were presented by the State of Illinois, consisting principally of the Laws of the State, from the time of its admission into the Union, Journals and Reports of committees at the different sessions of the Legislature, Reports of cases decided by the Supreme Court, American State papers, Statutes of the U. S. Census, &c., and it is designed soon to purchase a quantity of miscellaneous works written by the most approved authors.

The Public are respectfully invited to examine the objects of the Society for themselves, and become members and contribute to its support. The regular meetings are on the evening of the first Monday in every month.

By Order of the Society.

URI OSGOOD, Librarian.

Joliet, February 12th, 1848.

A friend has furnished us with some copies of the Oregon Spectator, which we observe is printed by W. P. Hudson; formerly of this paper.

### Thirtieth Congress.

WASHINGTON January 29.

The Senate was not in session to-day. Senate.—The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to extend Mr. Wood's patent, which was finally passed.

House.—Mr. Vinton explained the cause of the delay in printing the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which was very unsatisfactory. A long discussion ensued upon the proposition to allow the Secretary to reduce the loan to twelve millions.

A resolution was passed after much debate, to close the discussion on the President's message at two o'clock to-morrow, (yesterday.)

Mr. Goggin, on the question of reference to the President's Message, replied to the arguments of several Democratic members.

Mr. Morse followed in defence of the President and the war. The question being on referring so much of the President's Message as relates to supplies, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Wilmot moved to amend by instructing the committee to report a bill to raise annually, during the war, five millions of dollars by direct taxation, which amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Cobb, House adjourned.

Senate.—Mr. Bell has the floor upon the ten regiment bill to-morrow. On motion the Senate adjourned.

John Davis, of Mass., and ex-speaker John W. Jones are dead.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.

House.—Mr. Vinton, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill for making an annual appropriation for the payment of the Indian debt, and authorizing the borrowing of thirteen millions of dollars in addition to the five millions already voted, to make up the deficiency in the treasury. He spoke briefly on the subject, having supposed the discovery of an error of seven millions of dollars in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, would obviate the necessity of immediate action on the bill. He had, however, received a letter from the Secretary stating that the increased expenditures of the war, rendered immediate action on the bill indispensable.

Mr. Ashmun called attention to the fact that whilst the Secretary of the Treasury was urging an immediate action on the report, it was not yet printed, after a delay of two months. And he further stated that the Printer had informed the committee that the Secretary had repeatedly called for the original manuscript, for the purpose of making alterations.

Mr. McKay was in favor of immediate action on the bill.

It was finally laid over.

The bill reported for the relief of Mary Brown, was amended so as to allow her twenty dollars per month.

On motion the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.

Senate.—The business was generally unimportant.

The bill allowing further time to satisfy claims to bounty lands for services rendered during the last war with England, was taken up.

Mr. Rush, in order to render the bill more acceptable, offered an amendment which was a compromise as to the extension of time. He advocated the amendment at some length, pointing out its advantages.

The resolution was adopted as amended.

Mr. Miller's resolution called on the President for information relative to the duties imposed on goods shipped to Mexico, was adopted.

The consideration of the Ten Regiment bill was resumed.

Mr. Douglass defended the bill earnestly, and contended that it ought to pass. He replied to the objections that had been urged against it, stating that the sooner action was had on this bill, the sooner there would be a permanent peace.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.

On motion, the Senate resumed the discussion of the Ten Regiment Bill.

Jefferson Davis stated that he would be satisfied if a treaty were concluded on the basis of the *Sierre Madre*, as a boundary between the two countries.

Mr. Bell would pray for the same thing but he did not believe that the views entertained by Mr. Davis, were those of the Administration, unless indeed there had been a very recent change in their policy.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

House.—After sundry motions, the House took up the order of the day, viz: the reference of the President's message.

Mr. Smith, of Ct., made a strong and animated argument against the course of the administration. He charged them with deception in the estimates of the public debt.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.

Senate.—An appropriation for the improvement of the Savannah river passed. Mr. Sevier spoke in favor of the Ten Regiment Bill.

House.—A motion was made to call up the Loan Bill—negatived.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Loan Bill.

A communication was received from the War Department, relative to Gen. Taylor's reply to Secretary Marcy's letter, rebuking him for having written as he did to Gen. Gaines. In reply, the old General states that he would do so again if similarly situated. He was aware, he said, of the hostility of the administration to him, but conscious of his rectitude, he asked no favors from them, and he would shrink from no responsibilities. The House adjourned over until Monday, pending the motion to print the correspondence.

The President has refused to discharge the Palmetto regiment.

### From Mexico.

By the steam ship Edith, Couillard, which left Vera Cruz on the 20th inst., we have papers and letters to the day of her sailing from Vera Cruz, and letters from the city of Mexico, to the 12th ult.

A train arrived on the 18th inst. at Vera Cruz, from the city of Mexico, under command of Capt. Chase and Lieut. Whitcomb.

They met Col. Dominguez's Spy Company at Amazuca, near Puebla. This company had had an engagement, in which he lost some 14, killed about one hundred of the enemy, and took General Torrejon and two Colonels prisoners.

When Capt. Chase was three days from Mexico, one of his men who had been left behind, joined him, and reported that a great quantity of wagons were in the Plaza, and that they were to accompany an expedition which was to be sent against Queretaro.

There was a rumor at Tampico on the 19th, that Guadalupe had pronounced in favor of Santa Anna and the Dictatorship.

Col. Hughes, Governor of Jalapa, had prohibited certain "Mexican gentlemen" from assembling in front of the hotel called "Posada de Utiligencias," were they have been in the habit of insulting ladies passing by.

### Correspondence of the N. O. Delta.

CITY OF MEXICO, }

January 12th, 1848. }

A Mexican officer has been detected in endeavoring to induce the soldiers to desert. If he is found guilty; as I expect he will be, he will either be shot or hung. The Congress had not yet met at Queretaro at the latest dates, but it was expected there would be a full meeting by 15th or 20th inst.

Capt. McKinsty, of the Quartermaster's Department, has now about one thousand men and women engaged in making clothing for the soldiers.

P. S.—11 o'clock.—Col. Jack Hays has returned; he routed Padre Jarauta from one of his dens—killing some ten or twelve of his men and wounding about fifteen others. One of the men shot at the Padre—whether they killed him I am not informed. They brought in his horse, saddle, and bridle, and cloak, and other trinkets belonging to the Rev. Father.

We have received the intelligence of the attack on Col. Miles' train, and are sorry to learn that the fine company of mounted rifles has been cut up. We suppose it to be Capt. Ruff, as we do not know of any company of mounted rifles down there except his.

Yesterday the police guard discovered about a wagon load of muskets concealed in a convent in this city.

Mr. Trist does not go home with the train going down to-morrow.

Col. Dominguez, of the native spy company, or contra guerrillas, arrived yesterday, with a letter from Vera Cruz. On his way up, he made a haul among the guerrillas infesting the road.

On the 10th—that is, the day before yesterday—near the Venta de Chalco, Padre Jarauta was seen with some 200 guerrillas.

A few days since, Gen. Lane went out some six or eight miles from the city, when a guerrilla party endeavored to pay their respects to him, but they "couldn't come it, quite." Several other parties have been seen in this vicinity lately, and Padre Jarauta is known to be about. Col. Jack Hays and his command have been out two days, and have not yet returned. His attention is especially directed to the venerable priest. We bet to him if Jack strolls across him.

VERA CRUZ, January 20, 1848.

Eds. Delta:—An express arrived here from the city of Mexico, on the 16th. An expedition was soon to leave that city, as I understand, for Toluca. I could not ascertain who is to command this expedition, as I was assured that Gen. Worth and Pillow and Col. Duncan were still under the shelter on the 3d inst.

The schooner Martin arrived from Havana, on the 18th, and reports that the English steamer had not yet arrived at that port on the 7th, and that it was the general opinion there that she was wrecked.

On the 18th, Capt. Taylor's company of mounted men arrived from an expedition to Meclim, with a few prisoners, who were released by Gen. Twigg.

Col. H. M. Wynkoop, of the 2d Penn. volunteers, started on a scout, at the head of thirty-two Texan rangers, on the 1st. His purpose was to surprise Jarauta and Rea, but missing them, he paid a visit to Gen. Valencia's hacienda, surrounded it. Silea, a wounded Mexican officer on parole, opened the door, and assured Col. Wynkoop that Gen. Valencia had departed that day for Toluca; but this was not credited, and lights were demanded to search the building. Col. Silea then proposed to deliver Gen. Valencia the next day, if the party would leave. To this the Colonel would not assent, and proposed to send an officer and eight men with him to await their return.

This proposition completely nonplused Col. Silea, and convinced Col. W. that Valencia was really in the house. Search was accordingly made, but nothing could be found of him. Col. W. declared that he would not leave the hacienda without him, and that if Valencia would give him, self up, he would be perfectly safe. But if he attempted to escape he would not answer for his life. At this moment a person stepped up and said, "I am Valencia." He then said that it was against the usages of civilized warfare to attack a man in the peace and quiet of his family, and in the dead of night. The Colonel answered that it was the only way he could be captured in the same hacienda on that night.